

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC
MEETING MINUTES
Lansing, Michigan
September 11, 2006

Call to Order:

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:15 AM.

Board members present: Adriana Greci Green, Keith Harrison, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Tom Shawver, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Wiskemann.

Board members excused: David Brickey, Richard Johnson, and Louise Stilwill.

Museum staff present: Chris Dancisak.

Approval of Agenda

***It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented;
motion passed.***

Minutes from Previous Meetings

***It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as transmitted
for the July 6, 2006 and August 21, 2006 meetings; motion passed.***

President's Report

President Spaniola reported that he had received a rather terse letter from Carol Payne from the Michigan Historical Center Foundation transmitting three checks for funds that he, on behalf of the Board, requested by letter shortly following the August 21, 2006 Board meeting. Specifically, the Friends received a check for \$1,073.35 for Fayette Chapter, \$616.10 for Walker Tavern, and \$119.80 for the Military Exhibit.

Chris Dancisak was requested to deposit the three checks to the Friends account and to provide appropriate documentation to the Board Treasurer (who was absent) regarding the Board's desire for the final disposition of the collected funds. Of the total deposit of \$1,809.25, \$1,073.35 should be retained in the Friends' General Fund Account, \$616.10 should be placed into the Friends' Restricted Fund Account for Walker Tavern, and \$119.80 should be placed into the Friends' Restricted Fund Account for the Military Exhibit. The Fayette Chapter money is being placed into the General Fund to reimburse that account with funds previously paid out to Fayette Chapter by the Friends.

President Spaniola reported on the status towards the resolution of the breakdown in the agreement between the Friends and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation regarding donations/membership to the Friends' organization. Considerable discussion ensued amongst the Board members regarding the best course of action.

President Spaniola reported on the status of the attempt to arrange a meeting of the Board's Special Committee and Debra Muchmore, President of the Michigan Historical

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY MEETING MINUTES

Lansing, Michigan

September 11, 2006

Page 2

Center Foundation. He indicated that a date had been set for September 25, 2006. Paul Tarr offered his office (Paul Tarr and Associates, 118 W. Lenawee, Lansing) as the meeting place. Dick Johnson expressed interest in attending the meeting. President Spaniola indicated that Dick and any other Board member who so desired could be part of the Board's Special Committee and attend the meeting. He indicated that he hopes that the Friends and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation will be able to come to an agreement that will allow both organizations to more effectively support the Michigan Historical Center programs and operations.

It was moved and seconded to hold (IF NEEDED) a special Board meeting on October 23, 2006 for the purpose of presenting to the Board the results of the September 25, 2006 meeting with the President of the Michigan Historical Center Foundation and to discuss the next course of action by the Friends; motion passed.

We will be informed if such a meeting is needed or not.

Treasurer Report

The following is the Treasurer's letter containing his report to the President:

“ September 6 – 06

Dear Bus

I am still up North for 2 more weeks
I do not have the Bank Report for 8-31.

Previous Balance \$11, 266.49 (7-31-06)

The 3 bills authorized to payment have been sent:

# 1291	Fayette Chapter (FOMH)	173.35
1292	State of Mich	20.00
1293	Void	
1294	Old Country Catering	<u>474.75</u>
		668.10

	11,226.49
	<u>668.10</u>
Balance -	10,598.39

(Unless deposits
have been Made)

I don't have an Address for "Michigan Council for History Education"
I will send a check as soon as I have an address.

Dick ”

It was indicated that the Treasurer's report should be amended to reflect the receipt of the three checks from the Michigan Historical Center Foundation.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY MEETING MINUTES
Lansing, Michigan
September 11, 2006
Page 3

Therefore, the Treasurer's report balance would be adjusted and reported as follows:

General Fund:	\$11,671.74 [= \$10,598.39 (Previous Balance) + 1,073.35 Fayette Chapter Check])
Walker Tavern Restricted Fund:	616.10
Military Exhibit Restricted Fund:	<u>119.80</u>
Balance:	\$12,407.64

It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report with the above adjustments from the three checks received from the Michigan Historical Center Foundation; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

A request was presented to the Board on behalf of MQ Leiby for \$367.55 for reimbursement of costs associated with attendance at the AASLH Council Meeting.

The following concerns were expressed regarding the request:

- (1) Concern was expressed regarding if the Friends should be reimbursing state employees for travel expenses when there was in existence an Executive Order prohibiting such travel,
- (2) Concern was expressed that at one time there was an understanding that funds collected by the Friends from the donation boxes in the Museum would be placed into a special account that could later be drawn upon by staff for staff development,
- (3) Concern was expressed that the Board did not know of or approve, in advance, the request for the staff travel, and
- (4) Concern was expressed that there was no reference in Treasurer's' report to the existence of any special or restricted account that funds resulting from the donations are placed into and, therefore, the Board had no idea as to how much funds had been collected and were available to reimburse the individual for the amount requested.

It was moved and seconded to table the request until the next meeting of the Board; motion passed.

Prior to or at the next meeting, the Treasurer should provide the Board with the current dollar amount that exists in the Friends Donation Account (if one exists) that has resulted from the collected donations.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak reported that June and July were very poor in terms of tourist attendance and revenue collection statewide. The month of August was only slightly better. As

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY MEETING MINUTES

Lansing, Michigan

September 11, 2006

Page 4

one example, he indicated that Mackinac Island tourism was reported to be down by about 35 percent from last year.

He also reported that due to budgetary issues, Michigan Historical Center Foundation has been informed that it would need to find ways to cut \$150,000 from it next year's (i.e., beginning October 1st) budget. At this point in time, there has not been any decision as to how the Center would make up the deficit. Compounding this issue somewhat are the uncertainties of two ballot proposals that will impact on how state government can budget and expend money.

Committee Reports

A. *Map Preservation* – No report

B. *Veterans Day Program (November 4, 2006)* - The speaker has been retained, the program has been published with the Veterans groups and advertised on the web site. There is a need to follow up with the speaker to ensure that everything is still fine on his end for his attendance. Additional contact with the various Veterans groups to help ensure a good turnout also would be useful. Bill Wellman and Paul Tarr indicated that he would jointly work on obtaining a plaque and to help ensure that there were sufficient refreshments at the reception. Geneva Wiskemann offered to be the person to introduce the speaker. Tom Shawver was appointed as chair of this activity.

It was moved and seconded to authorize up to \$750 to cover the cost of the plaque, ribbons (Souvenir Book Marks), and refreshments; motion passed.

C. *Magazine/Military*. Paul Tarr indicated that due to the fact that rotations were occurring with military units, sufficient information necessary to proceed was not yet forthcoming; however, it is anticipated that the needed mailing information will be available in the fall.

D. *Officer Nominations*.

It was moved and seconded to table Officer Nominations until the Board's next meeting; motion passed.

In the interim, the President indicated that he would send a reminder note to the Nominating Committee to have their report in by the next Board meeting.

New Business

There was no new business

President Spaniola indicated that matters relating to fiscal problems between the Friends and the Michigan Historical Center Foundation were previously discussed under the President's Report.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY MEETING MINUTES
Lansing, Michigan
September 11, 2006
Page 5

Old Business

President Spaniola indicated that discussions were continuing with several individuals regarding ways to increase membership in the Friends from various historical groups that have not yet been approached.

A brief discussion took place on an old concept (state license place to help promote Michigan History) that was brought up a while ago but never followed up on

A brief discussion took place about the possibility of promoting the charging of an entrance fee for the museum.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting; motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison
Secretary Protemp

The next Board Meeting will be Monday, October 9, 2006, 10:00 AM in Lansing